Rasen
(Spiral)

Story by Sakura Mizuki

Based upon the novel by
Suzuki Koji

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Contents

Rasen
3

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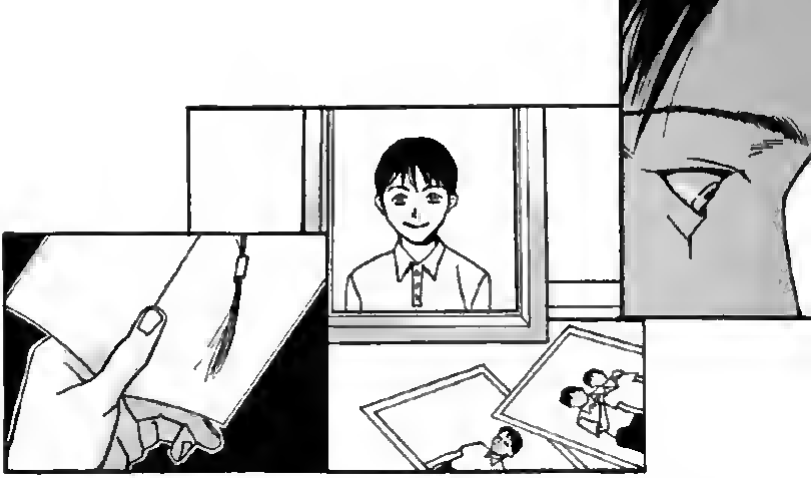
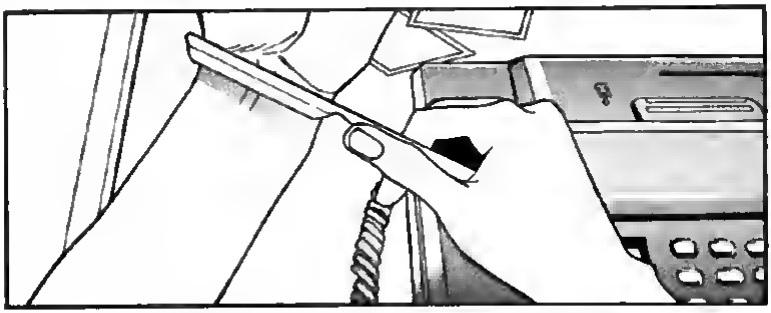


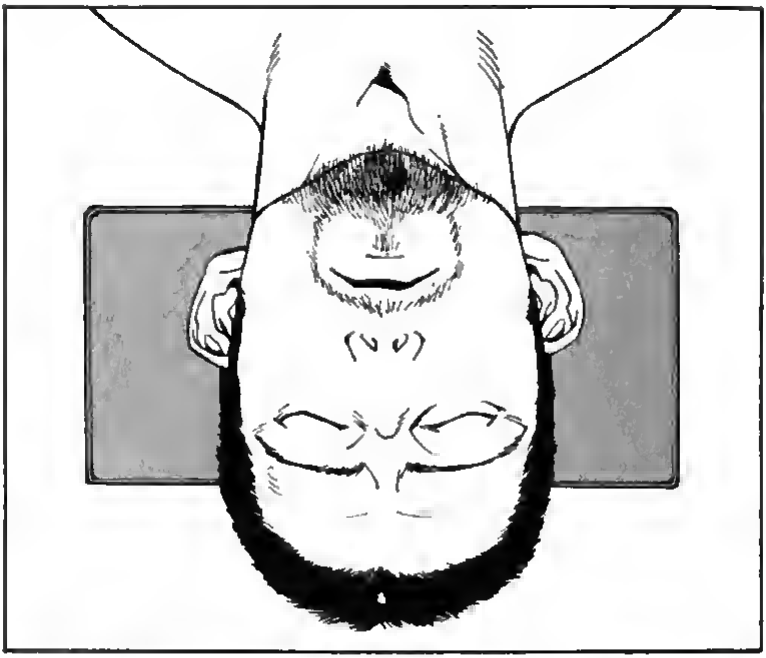
BRRRRING



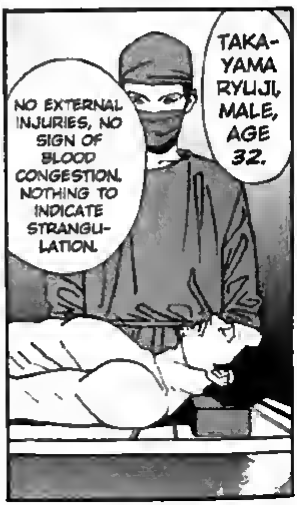
BRRRRING BRRRRING

HELLO
HELLO ?
YEAH. I GOT IT.
YEAH. WHAT-EVER YOU WANT.
LET'S JUST GET THIS OVER WITH.
NOT EVEN DOING THIS... IT DOESN'T MATTER. IT WON'T BRING MY SON BACK TO ME.
DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

AND THE ANSWER?
GOT IT! IT'S A KEY. A CODE SEQUENCE.
GIVE ME A MINUTE! I'M ALMOST THERE...
WHAT DO YOU SAY, ANDOU? READY TO GIVE UP?
DEAD END
Takayama Ryuji
RYUJI...



SUDDEN DEATH SYN-DROME?

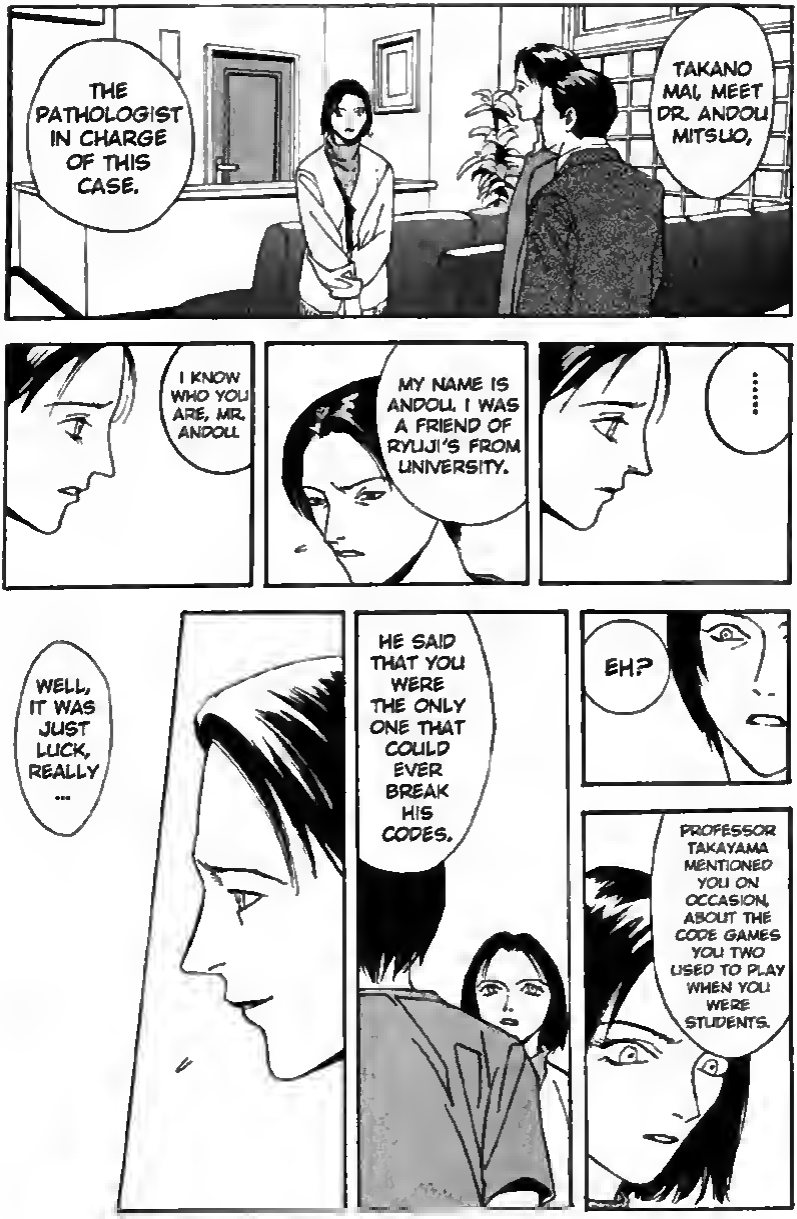

TAKA-YAMA RYUJI, MALE, AGE 32.
NO EXTERNAL INJURIES, NO SIGN OF BLOOD CONGESTION. NOTHING TO INDICATE STRANGU-LATION.

DOCTOR! HIS NECK...
LOOKS LIKE SOME SORT OF TUMOR. LET'S GET A TISSUE SAMPLE.
HEART: 372 GRAMS
CAUSE OF DEATH WOULD APPEAR TO BE HEART ATTACK BROUGHT ABOUT BY BLOCKAGE OF THE LEFT CORONARY ARTERY.
YOU'VE LOST WEIGHT, HAVEN'T YOU? RYUJI...

THUMP
THUMP
EH?
AAH
!

DOC-TOR?
WHAT?
178
136
IT CAN'T BE ...
IT LOOKS LIKE... NEWS-PAPER IN HIS STOM-ACH?!
MORE CODE-PLAY, RYUJI? EVEN NOW?

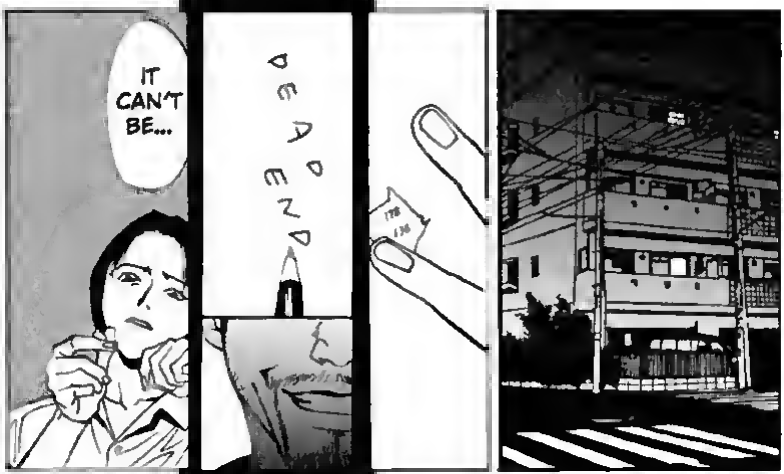
DR. ANDOU? I'M INSPECTOR MAEKAWA. PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
LIKE-WISE.
SO DOCTOR, WHAT'S YOUR RULING ON THE CAUSE OF DEATH? TURN UP ANYTHING SUSPI-CIOUS?
WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT, MR. MAEKAWA, THE TIME OF DEATH THAT YOU PRO-VIDED WAS INCREDIBLY ACCURATE. HOW DID YOU...?
AH. A FUNNY THING, THAT.
FUNNY ?
WELL... WHY NOT ASK THE PERSON WHO FOUND THE BODY FOR YOURSELF? HER NAME IS TAKANO MAI. SHE'S A UNIVERSITY STUDENT, AND IT LOOKS LIKE SHE WAS DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH THE LATE PRO-FESSOR. GUESS IT'S FAIR TO SAY THAT THE TWO WERE LOVERS...
MS. TAKANO ?

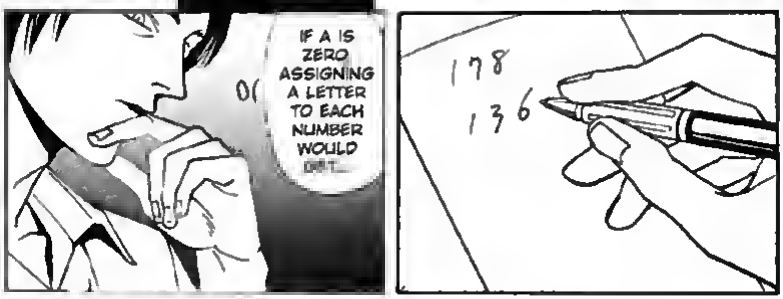

THE PATHOLOGIST IN CHARGE OF THIS CASE.
TAKANO MAI, MEET DR. ANDOU MITSUO,
I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, MR. ANDOU.
MY NAME IS ANDOU. I WAS A FRIEND OF RYUJI'S FROM UNIVERSITY.
.....
WELL, IT WAS JUST LUCK, REALLY ...
HE SAID THAT YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE THAT COULD EVER BREAK HIS CODES.
EH?
PROFESSOR TAKAYAMA MENTIONED YOU ON OCCASION, ABOUT THE CODE GAMES YOU TWO USED TO PLAY WHEN YOU WERE STUDENTS.

IF I CHECK THE CLOCK, I CAN USUALLY TELL WHO'S CALLING ME BY THE TIME THAT THEY CALL.
I THINK IT WAS A LITTLE AFTER 9:30 WHEN THE PHONE RANG. IT'S A HABIT OF MINE.
MS. TAKANO, WOULD YOU DESCRIBE FOR US AGAIN THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO YOUR DISCOVERY OF THE BODY?
THE MORE I THOUGHT ABOUT IT,
THE MORE IT STARTED TO BOTHER ME.
BUT THEN IT OCCURRED TO ME, THAT THE VOICE SOUNDED A LOT LIKE PROFESSOR TAKAYAMA'S.
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A STRANGE PRANK CALL.
AAAARRGH!!

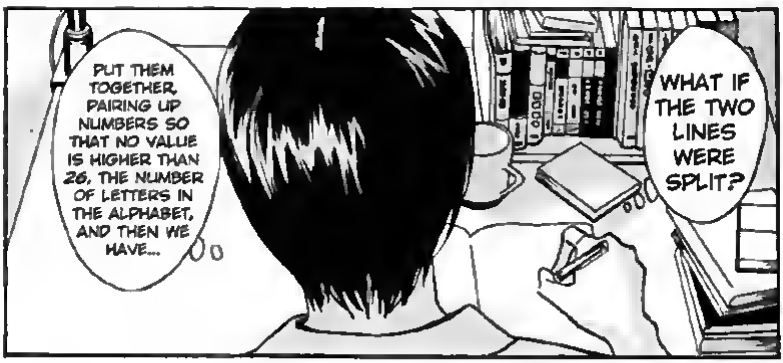
I TRIED CALLING THE PROFESSOR AT HOME, BUT NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I CALLED IT WAS ALWAYS BUSY.
SO I DECIDED TO GO TO HIS APART-MENT AND CHECK ON HIM MYSELF.
THE DOOR WASN'T LOCKED?
...I HAVE A SPARE.
ガチャ
PRO FES SOR?
PRO-FESS-OR?

CHEST PAINS, LOSS OF ENERGY ?
DID RYUJI EVER MENTION TO YOU ANY PROBLEMS WITH HIS HEALTH?
AND THE CALL TO 911 WAS MADE BY YOU?
IS THAT SO...


IT CAN'T BE...
DEAD END
178
136


IF A IS ZERO ASSIGNING A LETTER TO EACH NUMBER WOULD
178
136

BHIROG


PUT THEM TOGETHER, PAIRING UP NUMBERS SO THAT NO VALUE IS HIGHER THAN 26, THE NUMBER OF LETTERS IN THE ALPHABET, AND THEN WE HAVE...
WHAT IF THE TWO LINES WERE SPLIT?

17	8	1	3	6
R	I	B	D	G
1	7	8	13	6
B	H	I	N	G
17		8	13	6
R		I	N	G

IN ENGLISH IT CAN MEAN CIRCLE, OR AS A VERB, TO CALL OR TO SOUND.

MEANING ?
THAT RYUJI. HE WAS AN ODD ONE ALRIGHT, RIGHT UP TO THE WAY HE DIED.
YOU KNOW PROFESSOR SEKI, DON'T YOU?
Dept. of Pathology
MIYASHITA, HAVE YOU GOTTEN ANYTHING BACK ON THE TISSUE SAMPLE WE TOOK FROM RYUJI?
JUST TELL ME, ALREADY.
HE TOOK ONE LOOK AT THE TUMOR WE PULLED FROM RYUJI'S PHARYNX, AND YOU KNOW WHAT THE OLD BUZZARD SAID?
THAT OLD MAN. HE SAYS SOME MIGHTY STRANGE THINGS SOMETIMES.

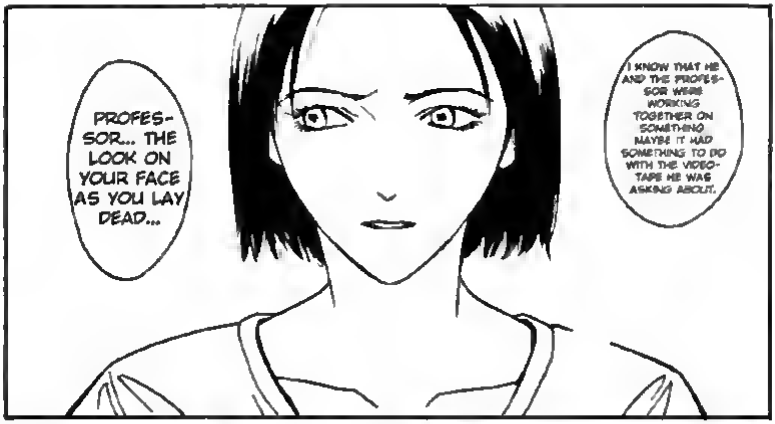
THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT.
PROBABLY NOT. STILL...
SMALLPOX?
HE SAID IT LOOKED LIKE SMALLPOX.
I THINK I'D LIKE YOU TO CHECK WITH SOME OF THE OTHER UNIVERSITIES, SEE IF THEY'VE TURNED UP ANYTHING AS WELL.
HMMM... IF YOU CAN SPARE THE TIME,
PUTTING ASIDE THE LOGISTICS OF IT FOR A MINUTE, IF THE TUMOR *WERE* VIRAL IN ORIGIN, IT'D STAND TO REASON THAT OTHERS HAVE BEEN INFECTED AS WELL.
I'M ON IT. IT'D PROBABLY BE A GOOD IDEA TO BEGIN BY LOOKING FOR OTHER CORPSES EXHIBITING THE SAME SYMPTOMS. HERE'S HOPING THIS THING DOESN'T TURN INTO A FULL-BLOWN EPIDEMIC.

ALASKA

I'M SORRY TO HAVE CALLED YOU SO SUD-DENLY...

PLEASE, DON'T THINK ANYTHING OF IT. SO, WHAT IS IT THAT YOU HAVE TO TELL ME?

IT'S ABOUT PROFESSOR TAKAYAMA... THE WAY THAT HE DIED. THERE'S SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME.
THE NIGHT OF HIS WAKE, THERE WAS A PHONE CALL FROM ONE OF HIS FRIENDS FROM HIGH SCHOOL. HE SAID HIS NAME WAS ASAKAWA.
WHEN I TOLD HIM THAT THE PROFESSOR HAD DIED, IT WAS LIKE HE WAS IN SHOCK. HE TOLD ME THAT HE'D BE RIGHT OVER, AND A FEW MINUTES
LATER HE SHOWED UP LOOKING ALL FRANTIC. HE WAS ALMOST SHOUTING AT ME, GOING--
A VIDEOTAPE?
ABOUT A VIDEOTAPE?
ARE YOU SURE THAT RYUJI DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING TO YOU? FOR EXAMPLE,
I THOUGHT IT WAS STRANGE, TOO.
I DON'T KNOW WHY HE'D BE ASKING ME ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THAT.


PROFES-SOR... THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE AS YOU LAY DEAD...
I KNOW THAT HE AND THE PROFES-SOR WERE WORKING TOGETHER ON SOMETHING. MAYBE IT HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE VIDEO-TAPE HE WAS ASKING ABOUT.

ASAKAWA KAZUYUKI.

I'M AFRAID THE ONLY THING I CAN TELL YOU IS HIS NAME-- ASAKAWA KAZUYUKI.

DO YOU KNOW HOW I COULD GET IN TOUCH WITH THIS ASAKAWA

DOCTOR, WHAT I WANTED TO ASK YOU WAS: DO YOU THINK THAT THIS VIDEOTAPE COULD HAVE KILLED THE PROFESSOR?
THAT SOME-THING ON IT WAS SO SHOCKING THAT HE COULD HAVE DIED OF FRIGHT?

DIE OF FRIGHT? OUR RYUJI?
MS. TAKANO, DO YOU THINK WE COULD MEET AGAIN SOMETIME? THAT WAY, I COULD GIVE YOU MORE INFORMATION AS WE HAVE IT, ABOUT RYUJI.
YOU'RE RIGHT.

Horror Comics

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作画・桜 水樹
原作・鈴木光司
「らせん」(角川ホラー文庫刊)